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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to specific Territories not covered by other agenda items

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. El Walid DOUDECH (Tunisia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples". At the same meeting, the Assembly decided to refer to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) those chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to specific Territories.

2. The chapters of the Special Committee's report concerning the Territories that were not covered by other agenda items related to the following specific Territories:

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Territory	Relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee[1]
Gibraltar New Caledonia Western Sahara	A/51/23 (Part V), chapter IX
American Samoa Anguilla Bermuda British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Guam Montserrat Pitcairn St. Helena Turks and Caicos Islands United States Virgin Islands	A/51/23 (Part VI), chapter X
Tokelau	A/51/23 (Part VII), chapter XI

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 October 1996, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda items 19, 88, 89, 90 and 12 and 91, on the understanding that individual proposals on matters covered by those items would be considered separately.

4. The Fourth Committee considered item 19 at its 2nd to 5th, 8th and 20th meetings, on 1, 7, 9, 10 and 28 October and 22 November 1996 (see A/C.4/51/SR.2-5, 8 and 20). The general debate and the hearing of petitioners on the items referred to above, including item 19, took place at the 2nd to 5th and 8th meetings, on 1, 7, 9, 10 and 28 October.

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 1 October, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee made a statement (see A/C.4/51/SR.2), in which he gave an account of the relevant activities of the Special Committee during 1996 and drew the attention of the Fourth Committee to the chapters of the report of the Special Committee referred to in paragraph 2 above, containing, inter alia, the related draft resolutions submitted by the Special Committee for the consideration of the Fourth Committee, as well as the relevant documentation of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2041 and Corr.1, 2043, 2044 and Add.1, 2045, 2046, 2047 and Add.1, 2050-2053, 2054 and Add.1 and 2055-2059).

6. At the same meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea, in his capacity as Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, made a statement (see A/C.4/51/SR.2).

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[1] To be incorporated in Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23).

7. The Fourth Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Western Sahara (A/51/428), submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/36 of 6 December 1995.

8. The Fourth Committee granted the following requests for hearing in connection with its consideration of the item:

Petitioner	Meeting at which request for hearing was granted
Mr. Ronald Teehan, on behalf of Speaker Don Parkinson, Twenty-third Guam Legislature (A/C.4/51/3), as well as on behalf of the Guam Landowners Association (A/C.4/51/3/Add.2)	3rd
Mr. Chris Perez Howard, on behalf of Senator Hope Alvarez Christobal (A/C.4/51/3/Add.1)	3rd
Mr. Yann Céléné Uregei, Congrès populaire (A/C.4/51/4)	3rd
Mr. Jarat Chopra (A/C.4/51/5)	3rd
Mr. Douglas Dryden (A/C.4/51/5/Add.1)	3rd
Ms. Nina May, The Renaissance Foundation (A/C.4/51/5/Add.2)	3rd
Mr. Boukhari Ahmed, Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) (A/C.4/51/5/Add.3)	3rd
Mr. Rock Wamytan, Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS) (A/C.4/51/4/Add.1)	4th
Mr. Mohamed Bahi (A/C.4/51/5/Add.4)	4th
Mr. Bahir Dkill (A/C.4/51/5/Add.5)	4th
Mr. Moustapha Bouh Bazarani (A/C.4/51/5/Add.6)	4th
Mr. El Houcine Bouida (A/C.4/51/5/Add.7)	4th
Ms. Gajmoula Bent Ebbi (A/C.4/51/5/Add.8)	4th

9. The Committee heard petitioners as follows: Mr. Ronald Teehan, Guam Landowners Association, as well as on behalf of Speaker Don Parkinson, Twenty-third Legislature of Guam, Mr. Chris Perez Howard, on behalf of Senator Hope Alvarez Christobal, Mr. Jarat Chopra, Mr. Douglas Dryden, Ms. Nina May, Mr. Boukhari Ahmed, at the 3rd meeting, on 7 October (see A/C.4/51/SR.3); at the same meeting, due to inability of Mr. Yann Céléné Uregei, Congrès populaire, to

read out his statement before the Committee, copies of his statement were made available to the members of the Committee; Mr. Rock Wamytan, FLNKS, at the 4th meeting, on 9 October (see A/C.4/51/SR.4); and Mr. Moustapha Bouh Bazarani, Ms. Gajmoula Bent Ebbi, Mr. El Houcine Bouida, Mr. Bahir Dkill and Mr. Mohamed Bahi, at the 5th meeting, on 10 October (see A/C.4/51/SR.5).

10. With the Committee's consent, the Honourable Peter Caruana, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, made a statement at the 3rd meeting, on 7 October (see A/C.4/51/SR.3).

11. At the same meeting, the representative of Morocco made a statement in connection with the hearing of petitioners on the question of Western Sahara (see A/C.4/51/SR.3).

12. At the 5th meeting, on 10 october, the representative of Algeria made a statement on the question of Western Sahara (see A/C.4/51/SR.5).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

13. Following its consideration of the proposals relating to the 15 Territories referred to in paragraph 2, the Fourth Committee adopted three draft resolutions (para. 26) and one draft decision (para. 27). An account of the Committee's consideration of the proposals is given in paragraphs 15 to 25.

14. At the 8th meeting, on 28 October, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, concerning the programme budget implications relating to the proposals on Western Sahara, New Caledonia, Tokelau, American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (see A/C.4/51/SR.8).

A. Western Sahara

15. At the 8th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, the Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria,[2] Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Suriname, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and

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[2] In a letter dated 20 November to the Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations stated that Nigeria was not in a position to be a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.4/51/L.4.

Zimbabwe, joined by Botswana, Ecuador, Haiti, Paraguay, Sierra Leone and Trinidad and Tobago, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.4/51/L.4) and orally revised it as follows:

(a) The eighth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara, as provided for in the settlement plan",

was replaced by:

"Recalling with satisfaction the entry into force of the ceasefire in Western Sahara on 6 September 1991, in accordance with the proposal of the Secretary-General, and stressing the importance it attaches to the maintenance of the ceasefire as an integral part of the settlement plan";

(b) Operative paragraphs 7 and 8, which had read:

"7. Declares its conviction of the importance and usefulness of direct contacts between the two parties with a view to overcoming their differences and creating propitious conditions for a speedy and effective implementation of the settlement plan;

"8. Encourages in this regard the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to start, as soon as possible, direct talks for the relaunching of the peace process in Western Sahara",

were merged and revised to read:

"7. Declares its conviction of the importance and usefulness of direct contacts between the two parties with a view to overcoming their differences and creating propitious conditions for a speedy and effective implementation of the settlement plan, and encourages in this regard the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to start direct talks as soon as possible",

and the remaining paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/51/L.4, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 26, draft resolution I).[3]

B. New Caledonia

17. At its 8th meeting, on 28 October, the Committee adopted, without objection, the draft resolution concerning New Caledonia contained in document

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[3] The representative of Angola made a statement in explanation of position (see A/C.4/51/SR.8).

A/51/23 (Part V), chapter IX, paragraph 32 (see para. 26, draft resolution II).[4]

C. Tokelau

18. At its 8th meeting, on 28 October, the Committee adopted, without objection, the draft resolution on the question of Tokelau contained in document A/51/23 (Part VII), chapter XI, paragraph 11 (see para. 26, draft resolution III).

D. Gibraltar

19. At its 8th meeting, on 28 October, the Fourth Committee adopted, without objection, the draft decision concerning Gibraltar contained in document A/C.4/51/L.5 (see para. 27).

E. American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands

20. The Committee had before it a draft resolution proposed by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in document A/51/23 (Part VI), chapter X, paragraph 17, which read as follows:

"Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

"A

"GENERAL

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter 'the Territories',

"Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the

[4] The representative of France made a statement in explanation of position (see A/C.4/51/SR.8).

Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[5]

"Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

"Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the sentiments of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

"Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Expressing its concern that even three and a half decades after the adoption of the Declaration there still remains a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

"Conscious of the need to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of the Territories, in view of the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000,

"Recognizing that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination as enunciated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions,

"Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee, and welcoming the recent constitutional developments in Tokelau,

"Welcoming the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that it continues to take seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in the dependent Territories and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status,

"Noting the stated position of the Government of the United States of America that it supports fully the principles of decolonization and takes seriously its obligations under the Charter to promote to the utmost the

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[5] A/51/23 (Part VI), chap. X.

well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories under United States administration,

"Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

"Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

"Aware of the usefulness both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of appointed and elected representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

"Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections, and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

"Convinced that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must not take place without an active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory,

"Recognizing that all available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other General Assembly resolutions,

"Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

"Mindful also that the holding of the seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately and at United Nations Headquarters or any other venue, as appropriate, provides an effective means for the Special Committee to discharge its mandate and promote the goals of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism by the year 2000,

"Mindful further that some Territories have not had any United Nations visiting mission for a long period of time,

"Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank,

"1. Approves the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter 'the Territories';[5]

"2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, including, if they so wish, independence, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

"3. Reaffirms also that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of the legitimate political status options open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

"4. Requests the administering Powers, having ascertained the views of the peoples of the Territories, regularly to report to the Secretary-General on the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

"5. Stresses the need to seek further ways and means to enhance the Special Committee's understanding of the conditions and wishes of the peoples of the Territories;

"6. Requests the administering Powers and the representatives of the peoples of the Territories to assist the Special Committee by inviting the United Nations visiting missions at appropriate times to monitor the status of the Territories;

"7. Reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that priority continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

"8. Requests the administering Powers in consultation with the peoples of the Territories to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

"9. Calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to continue to take all necessary measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money laundering and other offences;

"10. Stresses that the achievement of the declared goal of eradication of colonialism by the year 2000 requires the full and constructive cooperation of all parties concerned, in particular the administering Powers;

"11. Urges Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in the twenty-first century in a world free of colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

"12. Invites the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territories;

"13. Requests the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories in order to assist the peoples of the Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

"B

"INDIVIDUAL TERRITORIES

"I. American Samoa

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolution A above,

"Noting the report by the administering Power that most American Samoan leaders express satisfaction with the island's present relationship with the United States of America,

"Noting the non-participation of representatives of the people of American Samoa in the last two regional seminars,

"Noting also that the Government of the Territory continues to have significant financial, budgetary and internal control problems and that the Territory's deficit and financial condition are compounded by the high demand for government services from the rapidly growing population, a limited economic and tax base, and recent natural disasters,

"Noting further that the Territory, similar to isolated communities with limited funds, continues to experience lack of adequate medical facilities and other infrastructural requirements, especially the provision of safe drinking water to all villages in American Samoa,

"Aware of the efforts of the Government of the Territory to control and reduce expenditures, while continuing its programme of expanding and diversifying the local economy,

"1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

"2. Calls upon the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in the economic and social development of the Territory, including measures to rebuild financial management capabilities and strengthening other governmental functions of the Government of the Territory.

"II. Anguilla

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolution A above,

"Noting the non-receipt of up-to-date information on the Territory from the administering Power and that a last visiting mission took place in 1984,

"Noting also that information considered by the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was made available from published sources,

"Conscious of the commitment of both the Government of Anguilla and the administering Power to a new and closer policy of dialogue and partnership through the Country Policy Plan for 1993-1997,

"Aware of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to continue to develop the Territory as a viable offshore centre and well-regulated financial centre for investors, by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation, and computerizing the company registry system,

"Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money laundering,

"1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

"2. Calls upon the administering Power and all countries, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development.

"III. Bermuda

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolution A above,

"Noting the results of the independence referendum held on 16 August 1995,

"Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties of the Territory on the future status of the Territory,

"Noting the measures taken by the Government to combat racism and the plan to set up a Commission for Unity and Racial Equality,

"Noting with concern the report in the Royal Gazette of 23 November 1995 that approximately 19 per cent of Bermuda's households live in a state of poverty and continue to receive some form of assistance from the Government,

"Noting also the report of the intended closure of the foreign military bases and installations in the Territory,

"Taking into consideration the statement made in October 1995 by the Finance Minister on the transfer of those lands for development projects,

"1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

"2. Calls upon the administering Power to continue its programmes of socio-economic development of the Territory;

"3. Also requests the administering Power to elaborate, in consultation with the territorial Government, programmes of development specifically intended to alleviate the economic, social and environmental consequences of the closure of certain military bases and installations in the Territory.

"IV. British Virgin Islands

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolution A above,

"Noting the completion of the constitutional review in the Territory and the coming into force of the amended Constitution, and noting also the results of the general elections held on 20 February 1995,

"Noting also the results of the constitutional review of 1993-1994, which made it clear that a prerequisite to independence must be a constitutionally expressed wish by the people as a result of a referendum,

"Taking note of the statement made in 1995 by the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that the Territory was ready for constitutional and political advancement towards full internal self-government and that the administering Power should assist through the gradual transfer of power to elected territorial representatives,

"Noting that the Territory is emerging as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

"Noting also the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

"1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

"2. Also requests the administering Power, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Territory for socio-economic development and development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors.

"V. Cayman Islands

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolution A above,

"Noting the non-receipt of up-to-date information on the Territory from the administering Power and that a last visiting mission took place in 1977,

"Noting also that information considered by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the

Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was made available from published sources,

"Noting the constitutional review of 1992-1993, according to which the population expressed the sentiment that the existing relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland should be maintained and that the current status of the Territory should not be altered,

"Aware that the Territory has one of the highest per capita incomes in the region, a stable political climate, and virtually no unemployment,

"Noting also the actions taken by the territorial Government to implement its localization programme to promote increased participation of the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

"Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities,

"Noting further the measures taken by the authorities to deal with those problems,

"Noting that the Territory has emerged as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

"1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

"2. Also requests the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide the territorial Government with all required expertise to enable it to achieve its socio-economic aims;

"3. Calls upon the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

"4. Requests the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level.

"VI. Guam

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolution A above,

"Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the people of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework

for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for increased measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

"Recalling also the requests by elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned pending the exercise of self-determination by the Chamorro people,

"Aware of the continued negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act and on the future status of the Territory, with particular emphasis on the question of the evolution of the relationship between the United States of America and Guam,

"Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

"Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

"Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

"Aware of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

"Taking note of the proposed closing and realigning of four United States Navy installations on Guam and the request for the establishment of a transition period to develop some of the closed facilities as commercial enterprises,

"Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory and noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific Regional Seminar[6] for sending a visiting mission to Guam,

"1. Calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the exercise of self-determination by the Chamorro people of Guam for the Territory, as endorsed by the people of Guam in the draft Guam Commonwealth Act, and to keep the Secretary-General informed of the progress to that end;

"2. Requests the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

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[6] A/AC.109/2058.

"3. Also requests the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue the transfer of land to the people of the Territory and to take the necessary steps to safeguard their property rights;

"4. Further requests the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue;

"5. Requests the administering Power to implement programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of economic activities and enterprises by the Chamorro people;

"6. Also requests the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities.

"VII. Montserrat

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolution A above,

"Noting the non-receipt of up-to-date information on the Territory from the administering Power and that a last visiting mission took place in 1982,

"Noting also that information considered by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was made available from published sources,

"Noting the functioning of a democratic process in Montserrat,

"Taking note of the reported statement of the Chief Minister that his preference was for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and that self-reliance was more of a priority than independence,

"Noting with concern the dire consequences of a volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of a third of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island,

"Noting also the efforts of the administering Power and the Government of the Territory to meet the emergency situation caused by the volcanic eruption, including the implementation of a wide range of contingency measures for both private and public sectors in Montserrat,

"Noting further the coordinated response measures taken by the United Nations Development Programme and the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team,

"Noting with deep concern that a substantial number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity,

"1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

"2. Calls upon the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations to provide urgent emergency assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption.

"VIII. Pitcairn

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolution A above,

"Taking into account the unique nature of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

"Expressing its satisfaction with the continued economic and social advancement of the Territory, as well as with the improvement of its communications with the outside world and its management plan to address conservation issues,

"1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

"2. Also requests the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory.

"IX. St. Helena

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolution A above,

"Taking into account the unique character of the Territory, its population and its natural resources,

"Aware of the request by the Legislative Council of St. Helena that the administering Power conduct a constitutional review in the Territory,

"Noting the statement of 1995 by the administering Power that the Governor of the island would be ready to enter into debate on a constitutional review of St. Helena,

"Aware of the establishment by the Government of the Territory of the Development Agency in 1995 to encourage private sector commercial development on the island,

"Also aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial authorities to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of St. Helena, in particular in the sphere of food production,

"1. Requests the administering Power to conduct the constitutional review in the Territory, taking into account the wishes of its population;

"2. Also requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

"3. Further requests the administering Power and relevant regional and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development of the Territory.

"X. Turks and Caicos Islands

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolution A above,

"Noting the recent petition by the political leaders of the Territory addressed to the administering Power to recall the Governor and the decision by the administering Power to reject that petition,

"Noting with interest the statement made and the information on the political and economic situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands provided by the Deputy Chief Minister of the Territory to the Pacific Regional Seminar held at Port Moresby in June 1996,

"Taking note of the request by the Deputy Chief Minister of the Territory addressed to the Special Committee to visit the Territory and ascertain the wishes of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands with regard to preparing themselves for self-government,

"Noting also the establishment in November 1995 of the Action Committee for Political Independence, formed by prominent political figures from different parties, and its stated goal of educating the population on

the disadvantages of the present colonial status and the benefits of independence,

"Noting further the efforts by the Government of the Territory to strengthen financial management in the public sector, including efforts to increase revenue,

"Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities, as well as its problems caused by illegal immigration,

"Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

"1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

"2. Invites the administering Power to take fully into account the wishes and interests of the Government and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the governance of the Territory;

"3. Calls upon the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to continue to provide assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

"4. Calls upon the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking.

"XI. United States Virgin Islands

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolution A above,

"Noting that general elections were held in November 1994,

"Noting also that 27.5 per cent of the electorate participated in the referendum on the political status of the Territory on 11 October 1993, and that 80.4 per cent of those who voted supported the existing territorial status arrangements with the United States of America, and that the referendum left the status issue undecided,

"Noting further the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community,

"Noting the necessity of further diversifying the Territory's economy,

"Noting also that the question of Water Island is still under discussion between the Government of the Territory and the administering Power,

"Noting further the efforts of the Government of the Territory to promote the Territory as an offshore financial services centre,

"Noting with satisfaction that the Territory joined the International Drug Enforcement Conference as a full member in 1995, which would strengthen its capability to combat illegal drug trafficking,

"Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

"1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

"2. Also requests the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

"3. Further requests the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community;

"4. Welcomes the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the question of Water Island."

21. At the 20th meeting, on 22 November, the Chairman made a statement relating to the process of consultations held between the delegations of the United Kingdom and the United States and the Special Committee with regard to the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (A/C.4/51/L.11) to the draft resolution contained in document A/51/23 (Part VI), chapter X, paragraph 17, consisting of the following:

Draft resolution A - General

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, the phrase "and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including," would be deleted;

(b) The seventh preambular paragraph would be deleted;

(c) In the eleventh preambular paragraph the word "Noting" would be replaced by "Welcoming";

(d) The nineteenth preambular paragraph would be deleted;

(e) In operative paragraph 1 the word "Approves" would be replaced by "Takes note of";

(f) In operative paragraph 3 the phrase "of the legitimate political status options open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;" would be replaced by the phrase "of their right to self-determination in conformity with legitimate political status options, including those defined in resolution 1541 (XV)";

(g) Operative paragraph 4 would be replaced by the following:

"4. Requests the administering Powers to report to the Secretary-General on the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territories regarding their political status as expressed in any referendums and other forms of popular consultation, including free and fair elections conducted by the Governments of the Territories;

"4 bis. Requests the administering Powers to report to the Secretary-General the results of any informed and democratic processes conducted by the Governments of the Territories which indicate the clear and freely expressed wish of the people to change the existing status of the Territory";

(h) Operative paragraph 5 would be deleted;

(i) Operative paragraph 6 would be replaced by the following:

"6. Reaffirms that visiting United Nations missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power are one effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and requests the administering Powers to keep the possibility of such missions under review";

(j) Operative paragraph 10 would be deleted;

(k) Operative paragraph 13 would be replaced by the following:

"13. Requests the Special Committee to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on all relevant information received pursuant to the present resolution."

Draft resolution B.II - Anguilla

The second preambular paragraph would be deleted;

Draft resolution B.III - Bermuda

The fifth preambular paragraph would be deleted;

Draft resolution B.V - Cayman Islands

The second preambular paragraph would be deleted;

Draft resolution B.VI - Guam

(a) In the second preambular paragraph the words "increased measure of" would be deleted;

(b) In the third preambular paragraph the words "pending the exercise of self-determination by the Chamorro people" would be replaced by the words "pending the expression of the will of the Chamorro people";

(c) In operative paragraph 1 the phrase "facilitate the exercise of self-determination by the Chamorro people of Guam for the Territory, as endorsed by the people of Guam in the draft Guam Commonwealth Act" would be replaced by the phrase "receive an expression of the will of the Chamorro people";

(d) In operative paragraph 3 the word "orderly" would be inserted before the word "transfer";

(e) In operative paragraph 4 the words "people of Guam, including" would be inserted before the words "the Chamorro people";

(f) In operative paragraph 5 the words "implement programmes" would be replaced by the words "cooperate in establishing programmes", and the words "enterprises by the Chamorro people" would be replaced by the words "enterprises by the people of Guam, including the Chamorro people";

Draft resolution B.IX - St. Helena

Operative paragraph 1 would be replaced by the following:

"1. Notes that the administering Power has noted various statements made by members of the Legislative Council about the Constitution and is prepared to discuss these further with the people of St. Helena, and further notes that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association recently sent a delegation to study the Constitution and its application with the Legislative Council".

22. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom proposed that the General Assembly decide to defer consideration of the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands until March 1997 (see A/C.4/51/SR.20).

23. Statements in connection with the draft decision proposed by the United Kingdom were made by Sierra Leone, the United States, Papua New Guinea (in his capacity as Acting Chairman of the Special Committee), Chile, the Russian Federation, Colombia, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Venezuela, Romania (also on behalf of the Republic of Moldova), the Syrian Arab Republic, Ireland

(on behalf of the European Union), China, Indonesia, India, Norway and Pakistan (see A/C.4/51/SR.20).

24. At the same meeting, following clarification by the Chairman, the representative of the United Kingdom made a procedural motion, under rule 116 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to defer consideration of the matter until March 1997. In accordance with rule 116 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, statements were made by the representatives of Sierra Leone and the United States in favour of the motion and by the representatives of Cuba and China against the motion (see A/C.4/51/SR.20).

25. At the same meeting, the Fourth Committee voted in favour of the motion to defer consideration of the matter until March 1997 by a recorded vote of 52 to 46, with 22 abstentions.[7] The voting was as follows:

In favour: Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Against: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Jordan, Kazakstan, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Republic of Korea, Tunisia, Uruguay.

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[7] Statements in explanation of vote were made by Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji, Uruguay, Argentina, Cuba and Papua New Guinea (see A/C.4/51/SR.20).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (FOURTH COMMITTEE)

26. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Question of Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 50/36 of 6 December 1995,

Recalling also the agreement in principle given on 30 August 1988 by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to the proposals of the Secretary-General of the United Nation and the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in the context of their joint mission of good offices,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990 and 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council approved the settlement plan for Western Sahara,

Recalling further all the Security Council resolutions relating to the question of Western Sahara, in particular resolutions 621 (1988) of 20 September 1988, 725 (1991) of 31 December 1991, 809 (1993) of 2 March 1993, 907 (1994) of 29 March 1994, 973 (1995) of 13 January 1995, 995 (1995) of 26 May 1995, 1002 (1995) of 30 June 1995, 1017 (1995) of 22 September 1995, 1033 (1995) of 19 December 1995 and 1042 (1996) of 31 January 1996, as well as all General Assembly resolutions relating to the question of Western Sahara,

Recalling with satisfaction the entry into force of the ceasefire in Western Sahara on 6 September 1991, in accordance with the proposal of the Secretary-General, and stressing the importance it attaches to the maintenance of the ceasefire as an integral part of the settlement plan,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara, as provided for in the settlement plan,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 1056 (1996) of 29 May 1996, by which the Council decided to suspend the identification process and to reduce the military component of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara owing to the absence of progress in the implementation of the settlement plan,

Seriously concerned about the risks that this impasse has on the implementation process of the settlement plan for the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and on the peace and stability of the region,

Stressing the importance and usefulness of the resumption of direct talks between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro in order to create an atmosphere of mutual confidence necessary for overcoming the obstacles for the implementation of the settlement plan,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[8]

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[9]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Reiterates its support for further efforts of the Secretary-General for the organization and supervision by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in conformity with Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) and 690 (1991), by which the Council adopted the settlement plan for Western Sahara;

3. Reaffirms that the goal on which all were agreed consists of the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum for the people of Western Sahara, organized and conducted by the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity and without any military or administrative constraints, in conformity with the settlement plan;

4. Expresses its serious concern about the persistence of obstacles to the implementation of the settlement plan;

5. Takes note of Security Council resolution 1056 (1996), by which the Council decided to suspend the identification process and to reduce the military component of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara owing to the absence of progress in the implementation of the settlement plan;

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[8] A/51/23 (Part V), chap. IX.

[9] A/51/428.

6. Reaffirms the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara, as provided for in the settlement plan, and in this regard fully subscribes to the commitment of the Security Council and the Secretary-General concerning the fulfilment of their respective mandates, consisting of the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara;

7. Declares its conviction of the importance and usefulness of direct contacts between the two parties with a view to overcoming their differences and creating propitious conditions for a speedy and effective implementation of the settlement plan and encourages in this regard the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to start direct talks as soon as possible;

8. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara, bearing in mind the ongoing referendum process, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

9. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,[10]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

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[10] A/51/23 (Part V), chap. IX.

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Welcoming the strengthening of the process of review of the Matignon Accords[11] through the increased frequency of coordination meetings,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. Urges all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia and building on the positive outcome of the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

2. Invites all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians according to the letter and the spirit of the Matignon Accords, which are based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

3. Welcomes measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon Accords;

4. Also welcomes the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

5. Acknowledges the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

6. Notes the positive initiatives aimed at protecting New Caledonia's natural environment, notably the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

7. Also acknowledges the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and provincial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the member countries of the South Pacific Forum;

8. Welcomes, in particular, in this regard, continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to member countries of the South Pacific Forum;

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[11] See A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9-14.

9. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue the examination of this question at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the question of Tokelau,[12]

Recalling the solemn declaration on the future status of Tokelau delivered by the Ulu-o-Tokelau (the highest authority on Tokelau) on 30 July 1994, that an act of self-determination in Tokelau is now under active consideration, together with the constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the present preference of Tokelau is for a status of free association with New Zealand,

Recalling also the emphasis placed in the solemn declaration on the terms of Tokelau's intended free association relationship with New Zealand, including the expectation that the form of help Tokelau could continue to expect from New Zealand in promoting the well-being of its people, besides its external interests, would be clearly established in the framework of that relationship,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Recalling the dispatch in 1994 of a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting also that, as a case study pointing to successful decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

1. Notes that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau

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[12] A/51/23 (Part VII), chap. XI.

assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in Principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. Also notes Tokelau's desire to move at its own pace towards an act of self-determination;

3. Commends Tokelau for seeking on the basis of wide consultation with its people a form of national government that reflects its unique traditions and environment, and for charting its own constitutional course;

4. Acknowledges the collaboration between New Zealand and Tokelau regarding the Tokelau Amendment Act 1996, which provides Tokelau's national government with a legislative power, supplementing the executive power delegated in 1994;

5. Also acknowledges Tokelau's need for reassurance, given that local resources cannot adequately cover the material side of self-determination, and the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau's external partners to assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

6. Welcomes the assurances of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

7. Invites the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue their assistance to the social and economic development of Tokelau.

* * *

27. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Question of Gibraltar

The General Assembly, recalling its decision 50/415 of 6 December 1995 and recalling at the same time that the statement agreed to by the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Brussels on 27 November 1984[13] stipulates, inter alia, the following:

> "The establishment of a negotiating process aimed at overcoming all the differences between them over Gibraltar and at promoting cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis on economic. cultural, touristic, aviation, military and environmental matters. Both sides accept that the issues of sovereignty will be discussed in that process. The British Government will

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[13] A/39/732, annex.

fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as set out in the preamble of the 1969 Constitution",

takes note of the fact that, as part of this process, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Spain and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland hold annual meetings alternately in each capital, the most recent of which took place in London on 20 December 1994, and urges both Governments to continue their negotiations with the object of reaching a definitive solution to the problem of Gibraltar in the light of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.